

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 342

To promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across America.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

# A BILL

To promote the use of blended learning in classrooms across America.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Class-  
5 room Innovation Act”.

**6 SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

7       Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
8 this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amend-  
9 ment to a section or other provision, the reference shall  
10 be considered to be made to a section or other provision

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
2 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 3. ENCOURAGING STATE AND LOCAL BLENDED**  
4 **LEARNING PROJECTS.**

5 (a) STATE APPLICATIONS.—Section 2112(b) (20  
6 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended by inserting at the end the  
7 following:

8 “(13) In the case of a State that will carry out  
9 a program to award grants under section 2121(b),  
10 a description of the program, which shall include—

11 “(A) the criteria the State will use to  
12 award grants under such section to eligible enti-  
13 ties to carry out blended learning projects;

14 “(B) the State policies and procedures to  
15 be waived by the State, consistent with Federal  
16 law, for such eligible entities to carry out such  
17 projects, which may include waivers with re-  
18 spect to—

19 “(i) restrictions on class sizes;

20 “(ii) restrictions on licensing or  
21 credentialing of personnel supervising stu-  
22 dent work in such projects;

23 “(iii) restrictions on the use of State  
24 funding for instructional materials for the  
25 purchase of digital instructional resources;

1                     “(iv) restrictions on advancing stu-  
2                     dents based on demonstrated mastery of  
3                     learning outcomes, rather than seat-time  
4                     requirements; and  
5                     “(v) restrictions on secondary school  
6                     students in the State enrolling in online  
7                     coursework;

8                     “(C) how the State will inform eligible en-  
9                     tities of the availability of the waivers described  
10                    in subparagraph (B); and  
11                    “(D) how the State will provide the non-  
12                    Federal match required under section  
13                    2121(b)(2)(D).”.

14                 (b) RESERVATION OF SUBGRANT FUNDS FOR  
15                 BLENDED LEARNING.—Section 2121 of the Elementary  
16                 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6621)  
17                 is amended by adding at the end the following:

18                 “(b) RESERVATION FOR BLENDED LEARNING.—  
19                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
20                 provision of this part, a State that receives a grant  
21                 under subpart 1 may reserve not more than 5 per-  
22                 cent of the amount reserved to carry out this part  
23                 under section 2113(a)(1) to make grants to local  
24                 educational agencies to enable the agencies to carry

1 out blended learning projects described in paragraph  
2 (2).

3 “(2) BLENDED LEARNING PROJECTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The State edu-  
6 cational agency may use the funds de-  
7 scribed in paragraph (1) to carry out a  
8 program to award grants on a competitive  
9 basis to eligible entities in the State to  
10 carry out blended learning projects de-  
11 scribed in this paragraph.

12 “(ii) RESERVATION FOR RURAL  
13 AREAS.—In awarding grants under this  
14 paragraph, a State educational agency  
15 shall reserve 5 percent of the funds avail-  
16 able to carry out this paragraph for eligible  
17 entities that will serve rural areas.

18 “(B) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity de-  
19 siring to receive a grant under this paragraph  
20 shall submit an application to the State edu-  
21 cational agency at such time and in such man-  
22 ner as the agency may require, and which de-  
23 scribes—

24 “(i) the blended learning project to be  
25 carried out by the eligible entity, including

1                   the design of the instructional model to be  
2                   carried out by the eligible entity and how  
3                   such eligible entity will use funds provided  
4                   under this paragraph to carry out the  
5                   project;

6                   “(ii) in the case of an eligible entity  
7                   described in subclause (I) or (III) of sub-  
8                   paragraph (E)(iii), the schools that will  
9                   participate in the project;

10                  “(iii) the expected impact on student  
11                  academic achievement;

12                  “(iv) how the eligible entity will en-  
13                  sure sufficient information technology is  
14                  available to carry out the project;

15                  “(v) how the eligible entity will ensure  
16                  sufficient digital instructional resources are  
17                  available to students participating in the  
18                  project;

19                  “(vi) the ongoing professional develop-  
20                  ment to be provided for teachers, school  
21                  leaders, and other personnel carrying out  
22                  the project;

23                  “(vii) the State policies and proce-  
24                  dures for which the eligible entity requests  
25                  waivers from the State to carry out the

1 project, which may include requests for the  
2 waivers described in section  
3 2112(b)(13)(B);

4 “(viii) as appropriate, how the eligible  
5 entity will use the blended learning project  
6 to improve instruction and access to the  
7 curriculum for diverse groups of students,  
8 including students with disabilities and  
9 students who are limited English pro-  
10 ficient;

11 “(ix) how the eligible entity will eval-  
12 uate the project in terms of student aca-  
13 demic achievement and publicly report the  
14 results of such evaluation; and

15 “(x) how the eligible entity will sus-  
16 tain the project beyond the grant period.

17 “(C) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity  
18 receiving a grant under this paragraph shall use  
19 such grant to carry out a blended learning  
20 project, which shall include at least 1 of the fol-  
21 lowing activities:

22 “(i) Planning activities, which may in-  
23 clude development of new instructional  
24 models (including blended learning tech-  
25 nology software and platforms), the pur-

1 chase of digital instructional resources, ini-  
2 tial professional development activities, and  
3 one-time information technology purchases,  
4 except that such expenditures may not in-  
5 clude expenditures related to significant  
6 construction or renovation of facilities.

7 “(ii) Ongoing professional develop-  
8 ment for teachers, school leaders, or other  
9 personnel involved in the project that is de-  
10 signed to support the implementation and  
11 academic success of the project.

12 “(D) NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—A State  
13 educational agency that carries out a grant pro-  
14 gram under this paragraph shall provide non-  
15 Federal matching funds equal to not less than  
16 10 percent of the grant funds awarded by the  
17 State educational agency to eligible entities  
18 under this paragraph.

19 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

20 “(i) BLENDED LEARNING PROJECT.—  
21 The term ‘blended learning project’ means  
22 a formal education program—

23 “(I) that includes an element of  
24 online learning, and instructional time

1                   in a supervised location away from  
2                   home;

3                   “(II) that includes an element of  
4                   student control over time, path, or  
5                   pace; and

6                   “(III) in which the elements are  
7                   connected to provide an integrated  
8                   learning experience.

9                   “(ii) CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term  
10                  ‘charter school’ has the meaning given the  
11                  term in section 5210.

12                  “(iii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term  
13                  ‘eligible entity’ means a—

14                   “(I) local educational agency;

15                   “(II) charter school; or

16                   “(III) consortium of the entities  
17                  described in subclause (I) or (II),  
18                  which may be in partnership with a  
19                  for-profit or nonprofit entity.”.

